

REMARKS

Claims 13-17 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled and claims 13-17 added by this amendment.

Newly presented claim 13 is based on claim 8 of allowed in U.S. Patent 6,768,970 of which this application is a continuation and eliminates some unnecessary limitations from that claim in regard to person-related actions and a controlling controller.

Embodiments of the present invention described in paragraphs [00046] to [00049] and Figs. 8-10 of the present specification support this claim. These embodiments include such features as that of the report data describing the history of revision of a control parameter being transmitted from a remote maintenance device to a maintenance tool 2. Further, paragraphs [00055] to [00060] of the same specification describe the history of revision of the control parameter or the control circuitry.

Similarly, new claim 14 is a claim based on the prior claim 1 removing unnecessary limitations such as it being in a thermal power plant and having a function similar to the remote maintenance device.

New claim 15 is system claim of similar scope to method claim 14.

New claim 16 is based on issued claim 9 in parent U.S. Patent 6,768,970. The claims differ in that, the working in issued claim 9 such that a control parameter or a control circuitry is directly revised by a remote maintenance device has been changed. Now, the extent of transmitting the revision instruction data is down to the maintenance tool 2 and that the revision is actually performed by the maintenance tool 2. Further, claim 16 does not require it being in a thermal power plant and having a function similar to the remote maintenance device.

This claim is well supported in the specification. Paragraph [00045] of the present specification describes that the revision instruction data for the control parameter are transmitted to the maintenance tool 2 via a public communication line 8. Paragraph [00046] describes that the maintenance tool 2 automatically revises the control parameter on-line according to the revision instruction data for the control parameter when the system status

grants a direct tuning. (The revision is performed by the maintenance tool 2; however, the description in the specification covers a manual indirect revision as well.)

Claim 17 is a system claim of similar scope to claim 16 in a control parameter or a control circuitry is revised directly by a remote maintenance device.

The Examiner rejected previous claims 1, 4 and 5 as anticipated by Palusamy et al. and claims 2, 3 and 7 as obvious over Palusamy et al. in view of Rock et al.

A characteristic found in each of claims 13-15 is that report data describing the history of revision of a control parameter or a control circuitry is transmitted to a maintenance tool through a communication network. Applicants submit that neither Palusamy or Rock describe or suggest this feature. In particular, Applicants have reviewed the portions of Palusamy cited by the Examiner and find no reference to transmitting a report describing the history of revision of a control parameter as required by these claims. Such is not provided by Rock either.

Further, neither of Palusamy and Rock describe teach or suggest what is set out in claims 16 and 17. Specifically, neither teaches or suggests an arrangement in which a remote maintenance device transmits revision instruction data which describe the revision to be applied to a control parameter or a circuitry in said controlling controller and then a maintenance tool revises the control parameter or the circuitry according to said revision instruction data. Such teaching is clearly missing from the cited references.

In view of the above, all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.


The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

Applicants respectfully request a one month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action of May 21, 2004. The extended period expires September 21, 2004.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$110.00 for a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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John C. Altmiller
Registration No. 25,951

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Tel.: (202) 220-4200
Fax.: (202) 220-4201

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